

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A tray apparatus adapted to transport a plurality of vehicle components, each vehicle component having opposing sides and comprising at least one of a vehicle wheel and a vehicle wheel rim, said tray apparatus comprising:

at least two first support members;

at least one first guide-and-positioning element operably engaged with each first support member, the respective first guide-and-positioning elements being configured to cooperate to define a first accommodation region therebetween for receiving one side of a first vehicle component when the first support members are disposed in a complementary arrangement with respect to each other;

at least two second support members each having opposing sides and capable of separating the first vehicle component from a second vehicle component so as to prevent damage to the respective vehicle components; and

at least one second guide-and-positioning element operably engaged with each side of each second support member, the respective second guide-and-positioning elements on one side of the second support members being configured to cooperate to define a second accommodation region therebetween for receiving the other side of the first vehicle component, and the respective second guide-and-positioning elements on the other side of the second support members being configured to cooperate to define a third accommodation region therebetween capable of receiving one side of the second vehicle component, when the second support members are disposed in the complementary arrangement with respect to each other, the accommodation regions cooperating so as to constrain lateral movement of the vehicle components with respect to the support members, and thereby allowing the vehicle objects to be packaged in a side-to-side relation.

2. A tray apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising a substantially planar structural member capable of being operably engaged with the first support mem-

bers so as to support the support members and the vehicle components.

3. A tray apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the first and second support members are each configured as a substantially rectangular plate.

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4. A tray apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the first and second guide-and-positioning elements are each configured as an arcuate projection extending from the respective support member and defining a concave area, the concave areas of the respective guide-and-positioning elements being disposed in opposing relation to define the
10 corresponding accommodating region when the respective support members are disposed in the complementary arrangement.

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5. A tray apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the first and second guide-and-positioning elements are each configured as a semi-circular depression extending into the respective support member and defining a concave area, the concave areas of the respective guide-and-positioning elements being disposed in opposing relation to define the corresponding accommodating region when the respective support members are disposed in the complementary arrangement.

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6. A tray apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein, when disposed in the complementary arrangement, the respective first and second support members are disposed in substantially parallel relation to each other.

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7. A transportable assembly for at least one vehicle component, each vehicle component having opposing sides and comprising at least one of a vehicle wheel and a vehicle wheel rim, said transportable assembly comprising:

at least one vehicle component;

a substantially planar structural member;

at least two elongate first support members capable of being operably engaged with

the structural member so as to be supported thereby;
at least one first guide-and-positioning element operably engaged with each first support member, the respective first guide-and-positioning elements being configured to cooperate to define a first accommodation region therebetween for receiving one side of a first of the at least one vehicle component when the first support members are disposed in a complementary arrangement with respect to each other;

at least two elongate second support members each having opposing sides and capable of separating the first vehicle component from a second of the at least one vehicle component so as to prevent damage to the respective vehicle components;
and

at least one second guide-and-positioning element operably engaged with each side of each second support member, the respective second guide-and-positioning elements on one side of the second support members being configured to cooperate to define a second accommodation region therebetween for receiving the other side of the first vehicle component, and the respective second guide-and-positioning elements on the other side of the second support members being configured to cooperate to define a third accommodation region therebetween capable of receiving one side of the second vehicle component, when the second support members are disposed in the complementary arrangement with respect to each other, the accommodation regions cooperating so as to constrain lateral movement of the vehicle components with respect to the support members, and thereby allowing the vehicle objects to be packaged in a side-to-side relation.

8. A transportable assembly according to Claim 7 wherein the first support members are integral with the structural member such that the respective first guide-and-positioning elements extend from the structural member and define the first accommodation region therebetween.

9. A transportable assembly according to Claim 7 wherein the first and second support members are each configured as substantially rectangular plate.

10. A transportable assembly according to Claim 7 wherein the first and second guide-and-positioning elements are each configured as an arcuate projection extending from the respective support member and defining a concave area, the concave areas of the respective guide-and-positioning elements being disposed in opposing relation to define the corresponding accommodating region when the respective support members are disposed in the complementary arrangement.

11. A transportable assembly according to Claim 7 wherein the first and second guide-and-positioning elements are each configured as a semi-circular depression extending into the respective support member and defining a concave area, the concave areas of the respective guide-and-positioning elements being disposed in opposing relation to define the corresponding accommodating region when the respective support members are disposed in the complementary arrangement.

12. A transportable assembly according to Claim 7 wherein, when disposed in the complementary arrangement, the respective first and second support members are disposed in substantially parallel relation to each other.

13. A support device adapted to protect a vehicle component from damage, the vehicle component having opposing sides and comprising at least one of a vehicle wheel and a vehicle wheel rim, said support device comprising:

an elongate support member adapted to separate the vehicle component from at least one of a structural element and another vehicle component, so as to prevent damage to the vehicle component; and

at least one guide-and-positioning element operably engaged with at least one side of the support member, wherein, when two support members are disposed in a com-

plementary arrangement with respect to each other, the respective guide-and-positioning elements cooperate to define an accommodation region therebetween for receiving one side of the vehicle component, the accommodation region thereby constraining lateral movement of the vehicle component with respect to the support members.

14. A support device according to Claim 13 wherein the support member is configured to be capable of operably engaging a substantially planar structural member so as to be supported thereby.

15. A support device according to Claim 13 wherein the support member is configured as a substantially rectangular plate.

16. A support device according to Claim 13 wherein the at least one guide-and-positioning element is configured as an arcuate projection extending from the support member and defining a concave area, the concave areas of the guide-and-positioning elements being disposed in opposing relation to define the accommodating region when the support members are disposed in the complementary arrangement.

17. A support device according to Claim 13 wherein the at least one guide-and-positioning element is configured as a semi-circular depression extending into the support member and defining a concave area, the concave areas of the guide-and-positioning elements being disposed in opposing relation to define the accommodating region when the support members are disposed in the complementary arrangement.

18. A support device according to Claim 13 wherein, when disposed in the complementary arrangement, the two support members are disposed in substantially parallel relation to each other.